

State Commission

The New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism manages a portfolio of nine AmeriCorps State programs with more than 400 AmeriCorps members serving across the state addressing critical needs in the areas of education, health, environment, economic opportunity, disaster, and capacity building. In the 2014-2015 program year, more than 2,000 students demonstrated academic improvement due to the efforts of AmeriCorps members. Additionally the New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism trained programs and AmeriCorps members in volunteer recruitment and retention, conflict resolution, public speaking, and life after AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps State

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps' AmeriCorps members served at the Bandelier National Monument, which is one of the oldest Native American ruins in the state. The AmeriCorps members, who are all youth of Native American descent, participated in preservation work on some of the most cherished ruins at the monument. Members learned techniques that were used by their ancestors centuries ago when the structures were built. They reported a deep connection with not only the preservation work but their ancestry.

Earth Care Cadre's AmeriCorps members have helped implement a program allowing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients to use their EBT cards at farmers markets. Among the many benefits of the program, SNAP recipients can scan \$50 off of their EBT card and receive a total of \$100 in tokens. This is meant to further encourage recipients to eat healthy and buy locally, which benefits the recipient and the farmer.

AmeriCorps National

New Mexico's response to the HIV epidemic is challenged by the state's rural nature and limited HIV-specific resources. To help address HIV in their communities, 10 full-time AIDS United AmeriCorps members provide direct services, including HIV testing and counseling, health care access, prevention outreach, prevention education, and emotional and social services to at-risk populations in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Since 2007, AmeriCorps members have informed more than 4,000 people of their HIV status through HIV rapid testing and counseled them on their risk behaviors. Members have reached almost 30,000 people through community outreach and education, providing information about HIV/AIDS risk reduction, community resources, and how to access medical care. AIDS United AmeriCorps members have mobilized more than 1,300 volunteers in New Mexico.

The Southwest Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands AmeriCorps programs are based out of Acoma Pueblo in the Navajo Nation, and, starting in 2016, the Zuni Reservation in partnership with the other Ancestral Lands offices. In 2015, nine crews and eight interns improved 74 miles of trails and 597 acres of tribal and federal land. The Corps doubled the size of Ancestral Lands programs this year and expanded to include an internship opportunity for Native youth. AmeriCorps members in National Park Service units engage local Native youth, develop partnerships to support a future corps, and learn about career opportunities with the National Park Service. The Corps has a strong cadre of crew leaders that have developed and advanced through the program. As it grows and expands, the program will continue to mentor and develop leadership from within. Local corps leaders are the backbone of the organization, and training and investing in them continues to be a top priority.

FoodCorps has 10 AmeriCorps members serving in Albuquerque, Anthony, Gallup, Paso Del Norte Region, Santo Domingo Pueblo, and Silver City. FoodCorps is a nationwide team of AmeriCorps leaders who work under the direction of local partner organizations to connect children to real food and help them grow up healthy. They teach children hands-on lessons about food and nutrition build and tend school gardens, teach cooking lessons, and help change what's on lunch trays so that children can eat healthy food from local farms. In the past year, the FoodCorps members in New Mexico served 7,475 children, built or brought back into use 36 school and community gardens, harvested 1,295 pounds of produce, and recruited 472 community volunteers.

AmeriCorps VISTA

In 2015, the YDI Family Connections AmeriCorps VISTA project has built community capacity by recruiting more than 300 volunteers who have served approximately 3,000 hour. They have held 102 family engagement events focused on education and healthy futures and provided a wide range of support services to historically marginalized families throughout Albuquerque and Laguna. YDI Family Connections continues to attract strong candidates to sustain the program and is branching out into building social media capacity with the addition of an AmeriCorps VISTA member dedicated to media and outreach. In the past three months, the VISTA has increased the project's digital reach by more than 1,500 percent.

Boys and Girls Clubs in Indian Country (BGCIC) AmeriCorps VISTA members provide tangible impact by creating targeted cultural and educational programs for Native youth. New programs in 2015 included Story Time with local Tribal elders, a Big Littles mentoring program, a garden project with traditional Native plants, and a Cooking Club. An AmeriCorps VISTA member at the Penobscot Boys & Girls Club developed a Youth Science Camp focusing on combining science with traditional Native ecological knowledge. A member at the Boys & Girls Club of Brookings has worked to establish a partnership with the local Native high school and develop a college readiness program, incorporating college visits across the state of New Mexico. Another member at the Penobscot Boys & Girls Club built a website to promote the Club in the local tribal community. AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with the project report that service gave them the opportunity to “bring together elders and children in the community” to “be part of a project dedicated to expanding the success of the Club” and to “be part of something bigger in the community.”

AmeriCorps NCCC

The mission of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Roswell Field Office manages almost 1.5 million acres of public lands in Southeast New Mexico. An AmeriCorps NCCC team was requested to support the BLM's efforts. For thirteen weeks, a team served in the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area (FS-SRC NCA) in Fort Stanton. Members completed a variety of projects around the area, including building new, sustainable trails; repairing the boundary fence; removing abandoned cattle fences; thinning wildland fuels; and treating for invasive species. The work completed will have lasting positive effects on the region. The team's service will lower the burden of trail maintenance, reduce risk of wildfire, provide a more open environment for wildlife, and secure the National Conservation Area's boundary from nearby ranches. Increasing the sustainability of trails, removing excess fencing, and treating for invasive species will ultimately allow future visitors to enjoy the area in the most pristine conditions.

Conservation Legacy's mission is to serve underserved communities and people throughout the USA and its territories. The organization focuses its work on providing those communities with the resources they need to make their communities cleaner, healthier places to work and live. An AmeriCorps NCCC team was requested to join Conservation Legacy and support their efforts. Members served with Conservation Legacy and seven other partnering organizations on several one-to-two-week projects. Despite the varied nature of tasks completed with each organization, all communities benefited in similar ways. The food grown at each of the organizations' gardens was primarily donated to local school cafeterias, with an additional portion of the food being donated to low-income students. The fact that each of the three organizations has a staff of fewer than ten people who are available to tend hundreds of square feet of growing space makes planting efficiently and installing garden accessories a difficult task. Thus, the team's greatest contribution to these organizations was simply helping with tasks that will increase local children's access to healthy food.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The City of Albuquerque Foster Grandparent Program provided services to 172 children in the 2014-2015 school year. Albuquerque Foster Grandparents helped 123 elementary school children with word analysis and acquisition of vocabulary in writing and speaking, reading fluency and comprehension, and grade level numerical problem solving. Of the children that completed the program with assistance from a Foster Grandparent, 80 percent demonstrated improved academic performance in literacy and/or math. Foster Grandparents helped 20 children in Head Start programs with self-control, peer relations, conflict resolution, self-help tasks, patterns, shapes, colors, numbers, and phonetic awareness. Of the children that completed the program with assistance from a Foster Grandparent, 90 percent demonstrated gains in social and/or emotional development. City of Albuquerque Foster Grandparents also assisted 12 students in summer school programs to prepare them for the next school year.

Senior Corps RSVP

The Otero County RSVP program recognizes its Holloman Air Force Base Medical Clinic Pharmacy volunteers. These 26 dedicated RSVP volunteers contributed 4,542 hours in 2015 to help the staff of the 49th Medical Group pharmacy serve thousands of clinic patients. The pharmacy not only serves American active-duty military and their families, but hundreds of retirees and their families, as well as active-duty members of foreign militaries and their families who are either stationed at Holloman Air Force Base or are temporarily stationed here for training and education purposes. Whether they are doing intake, processing prescriptions, stocking shelves, helping maintain and track the inventory, returning patient phone calls, or providing face-to-face customer service, the RSVP volunteers travel from all over Otero County, sometimes more than 40 miles in each direction, to help the 49th Medical Group fulfill this important mission to active duty and retired service men and women from all branches of the military who call Otero County home.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The City of Santa Fe's Senior Companion Program continues to play a vital role in providing care services for elderly adults who would otherwise end up in a nursing home or skilled nursing facility. Based on individualized care plans, Senior Companions provide respite two to four hours per day, two to five days per week. This past year, ten caregivers received services from our program, and all report that they continue to have a better quality of life because of the assistance that they receive. One client is diagnosed with having dementia. Prior to the Senior Companion volunteer providing care, the client was at home alone, fending for herself and mainly sitting in a wheelchair all day worrying about her son's health and waiting for him to get home. The Senior Companion assists her with light meal preparation, light exercises, and much-needed companionship.

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) transforms lives by using evidence to find what works and make it work for more people. The SIF Classic and SIF Pay for Success programs harness the expertise of grantmaking intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits serving low-income communities across America. SIF Pay for Success program expanded to New Mexico and is working diligently towards establishing programs that aim to help individuals in institutional settings transfer to community-based supportive housing. The Social Innovation Fund is investing \$415,329 in expanding the impact of three nonprofits in New Mexico.